

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Japanese Beetle Quarantine Modified

An amendment of the Japanese beetle quarantine, adding parts of ten counties in Pennsylvania, two entire counties in New York, and part of one county in Connecticut, to the area designated as regulated on account of this insect, has been announced by the Department of Agriculture. The Department's announcement further states:

"At the request of the States concerned, an eradication experiment with respect to certain outlying points of supposed infestation has been authorized under such conditions and controls as will, it is believed, eliminate any increased risk over the immediate inclusion of such points under quarantine. At none of these points has it been definitely determined that there is any soil infestation, and in many instances only a single beetle was found. This experiment will be completed during the present dormant period of the insect, and, if its failure is indicated by the reappearance of adult beetles in June, provision has been made for the immediate extension of the Federal quarantine to include these points.

"The eradication effort will involve an intensive soil treatment not only of the location where the beetles were found in each case, but of a considerable surrounding area also. This treatment is to be applied as far as possible this fall or prior to the transformation and emergence of the beetle in the spring.

"As to the District of Columbia, the plant quarantine act requires certification by the Federal Horticultural Board for all

nursery and greenhouse stock shipped from the District, and the infested area within the District will be placed under controls similar to those enforced in the other areas in which action is being deferred."

It is our understanding that the first paragraph above quoted refers to conditions in the state of Maryland, which were noted in the report of the quarantine hearings published in the Information Letter for October 8.

"What's In a Can of Fruit?"

"Good Housekeeping" for November contains the second article of the series it is publishing on canned foods. Under the title "What's in a Can of Fruit," Miss Dorothy B. Marsh gives information that will be very helpful to the consumer in both buying and using canned products. Like the article on canned vegetables, which appeared in the October "Good Housekeeping," there are several attractive illustrations.

The article on canned vegetables has been republished, in large part, in a number of Hearst newspapers throughout the country.

Seattle Distribution Census Reported

There are 9,106 wholesale and retail establishments in Seattle, according to a census of distribution for that city, of which 1,415 are grocery and delicatessen establishments. The sales of these 1,415 establishments amounted to \$103,926,000 and they employed at total of 4,080 persons. Next to grocery and delicatessen establishments, the largest sales were made by those engaged in the sale of building materials.

Chain Store Business in Baltimore Food Trade

The Progressive Grocer has made a survey of the chain store situation in Baltimore to supplement statistics compiled by the Census Bureau in its census of distribution of that city. The information obtained by the Progressive Grocer shows that in 1926 there was an average of 436 chain stores operating in Baltimore, and that they did a business of approximately \$18,744,200. From the information compiled, the Progressive Grocer estimates that the chain grocery store sales constituted 16.1 per cent of the total sales of foods; 19.9 per cent of the total food sales except in restaurants, confectionery, soft drink and ice cream establishments; 26.1 per cent of the total grocery store sales (including eggs, butter, milk and cheese); and 23.3 per cent of the total grocery product sales (exclusive of eggs, milk,

cheese, meats, fresh fruits, and vegetables, confections, and bakery goods.)

Trend of Retail Trade in September

Distribution of merchandise to consumers, as indicated by sales of department stores, mail-order houses and chain stores, increased less than is usual in September. Compared with a year ago sales of department stores continued in about the same volume, while those of mail order houses and chain stores were larger.

For the first nine months of the year as a whole sales of department stores averaged about 1 per cent larger than in the corresponding period of last year and those of mail order houses were slightly more than 2 per cent larger. Sales of chain stores showed relatively larger increases for the first nine months of 1927, as compared with a year ago, than sales of department stores and mail-order houses, but this was due, in part, to the fact that the number of stores operated by the different chain companies increased during the year.

Intended Acreage for Winter Crop Spinach

The U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics issued, on October 28, an estimate of the acreage intended to be planted in spinach in Louisiana, South Carolina and Texas for the winter crop, which with an earlier estimate, places the total intended acreage at 31,240 as compared with 29,350 acres in 1926.

The Tin Can—A Pillar of Civilization

Under the title "The Tin Can—A Pillar of Civilization," Marion Erskine Rouse contributes an interesting article to the October issue of the Forecast. After briefly reviewing the different methods of food preparation, the writer devotes considerable space to the studies made of the nutritive value of foods, mentioning especially the vitamin investigations conducted by the National Canners Association in collaboration with Columbia University. One paragraph from the article that will be of special interest to the canners states:

"The hours spent in canning and preserving in hot summer kitchens are largely things of the past, partly because of lack of storage space, partly because of the difficulty of obtaining products fresh enough for canning, but chiefly because the canneries are supplying excellent goods at a price no greater than that expended for the raw foods and containers, exclusive of

the housewife's time and labor. No intelligent woman is going to spend herself in labor which brings no adequate return in a better product, money saving or the happiness of her family. So the intelligent woman resorts to the can-opener."

Change in Butter Fat Regulations Urged in Peru

A report from the American commercial attache at Lima, states that the Peruvian Tariff Board is being urged to raise the minimum butter fat content of imported milks to 9 per cent in the interest of local manufacturers who plan to curtail imports of foreign makes to their own advantage. The attache states that the new tariff bill now before Congress specifies a minimum of 7.8 per cent, and there is no ground for apprehending any change in the per cent before its passage. No regulations dealing with milk solids have heretofore been in effect nor are any incorporated in the new tariff.

First Survey of Radio Dealers' Stocks

The result of the first survey of radio dealers' stocks has been announced by the Department of Commerce. Out of a total of 31,485 dealers, reports were obtained from 7,842, and 236 out of 936 jobbers who were circularized submitted reports. In other words, one out of every four dealers and jobbers responded to the request for information. The dealers reporting carried an average of 9 receiving sets and loud speakers, while the jobbers reporting carried an average of 373 receiving sets as well as other supplies.

Recommends Careful Study Before Cannery is Established

Sound advice to communities that may be considering the establishment of canning plants is quoted in an article in a recent issue of the Market Growers' Journal, which calls attention to the recommendations of the Western Washington Agricultural Economic Conference held at Tacoma about a year ago. Too often, it seems, promoters of canning plants see only the agricultural side of canned foods production, failing to realize that there are other factors absolutely essential to the success of a canning plant.

The Market Growers' Journal quotes the Conference as recommending "that no new canning plants be approved in any community until after a most complete investigation of the financial responsibility of those back of the project has been made, then an investigation as to canning possibilities in the

district under consideration. If a favorable report results, then should follow an exhaustive study of the labor situation, the supply of fresh products and the competency of the management to manufacture and sell."

Asks Postponement in Mobile Rate Case

A petition has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission asking that the effective date of its order of June 28 requiring revision of the rates on canned foods from Mobile and New Orleans to various points north be postponed and that carriers be permitted to make the rates effective concurrently with the rates which will be established in compliance with the Consolidated Southwestern cases. The petition states that carriers have found the general revision required from Mobile cannot be made effective without creating fourth section violations or creating serious maladjustments unless revision is made at the same time in rates on canned foods from other Gulf ports, from Ohio and Mississippi River crossings and interior southern points at which canned foods are shipped. If the petition is granted, the effective date of the rates from Mobile would be postponed from December 27 to February 3, the latter being the date on which the rates prescribed in the Consolidated Southwestern cases are to be put in force.

An Editorial on Spinach

In an editorial on "The Dietary Defense of Spinach" the Journal of the American Medical Association for October 15 makes the following statement with regard to the value of spinach:

"The liberal use of green vegetables insures a considerable contribution to the vitamin quota of the diet. Spinach, for example, has the highest content of vitamin A of any common vegetable that has been investigated, being weight for weight, when fresh, a little richer than butter. Weight for weight, too, it is about as rich as milk in vitamin B, and it contains anti-scorbutic vitamin also. Furthermore, not only do the leafy vegetables tend through their bulk to prevent constipation, but they furnish the relatively uncommon but highly essential element calcium. There has been some question whether the calcium in spinach is actually readily available for absorption in man. In the Nutrition Laboratory of the Bureau of Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, McLaughlin has compared the calcium balance of a diet in which spinach supplied a very high proportion of the

calcium with that of the same diet in which milk furnished an equal proportion of the element. The outcome gave a favorable report for the spinach, even when this furnished 70 per cent of the lime in the diet. This speaks well for the green vegetable that dietitians are wont to conjure with when nutrition needs a boost. It is nutritively wholesome, even if not always gustatorily delectable."

Duty Reduced on Carbolic Acid

Under the flexible provisions of the Tariff Act, President Coolidge has issued a proclamation reducing by 50 per cent the present duty on phenol, commonly known as carbolic acid. This reduction is the maximum permissible under the flexible section of the Tariff Law.

Sweden Will Revise Its Tariff

A revision of the Swedish customs tariff will be submitted to the Riksdag, according to the American Commercial Attache at Stockholm. The proposed revision is said to aim at rearrangement of the tariff schedules, but this will result in some changes in the present duty rates.

Bulletin Issued on National Standards for Farm Products

A comprehensive discussion of national standards for farm products, with an historical review of the development of the standards for each product, has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the title "National Standards for Farm Products." In its announcement of the new bulletin the Department states:

"The bureau has issued standards for 35 different fruits and vegetables from artichokes to watermelons. There are standards for cotton, dairy and poultry products, grain, hay and related products, livestock, meats, tobacco, wool, and containers. Many states have enacted laws providing for the use of the national standards in intrastate trade, and the trade everywhere, whether acting under local compulsion or voluntarily, is using the grades as a practical necessity in the marketing machinery."

Copies of the publication, listed as circular No. 8-C, may be obtained upon request to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Car Loadings

Loadings of revenue freight for the week ended October 22 totaled 1,128,486 cars, an increase of 8,614 cars above the pre-

ceding week this year with increases being reported in the loading of grain and grain products, forest products, merchandise and less-than-carload lot freight and miscellaneous freight. Decreases, however, were shown in the loading of all other commodities. The total for the week of October 22 was a decrease of 72,455 cars under the same week last year but 7,809 cars above the same week in 1925.

Florida Grapefruit Canners Organize Association

Grape fruit canners of Florida have completed the organization of the Florida Grape Fruit Canners Association, with the election of the following officers: President, C. E. Street, Bradenton; Vice-President, Ralph Polk, Jr., Haines City; Secretary and Treasurer, Paul Stanton, Frostproof. The organization, it is stated, includes practically all the grape fruit canners in the state.

Effect of New Cuban Tariff

As stated in last week's Information Letter, the new Cuban tariff changes the duties on canned foods from an ad valorem to a specific basis. For this reason, it is impracticable to estimate the effect of the new tariff as a whole on the level of the rates, but computation of the duties on certain articles shows decided increases.

For example, under the former tariff the duty on canned fruits was $19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem, plus a surtax of 10 per cent of the duty. For No. $2\frac{1}{2}$ standard California yellow cling peaches quoted at \$2 per dozen f. o. b. factory, the duty plus surtax under the old tariff would amount to \$0.858. Under the new tariff, the duty is 7.2 cents per kilo, and as the net weight of the contents of a case of No. $2\frac{1}{2}$ cans of peaches averages 45 pounds, or 20.4 kilos, the duty would therefore be \$1.47, plus a surtax of 10 per cent, or \$1.617. This is an increase of 88.4 per cent.

Under the old tariff the duty on canned tomatoes was $22\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, plus a surtax of 3 per cent of the duty. For No. 3 Southern tomatoes quoted at \$1.15 per dozen f. o. b. factory, the duty would work out at \$0.522. Adding the surtax of 3 per cent, would make a total of \$0.537. Under the new tariff the duty is 12.6 cents per kilo, and this, applied to a case of No. 3 tomatoes averaging 53 pounds, or 24 kilos, would work out at \$3.024. Adding the surtax of 3 per cent would make the total \$3.115. This is an increase over the former rate of 480 per cent.

Similar comparisons can be worked out for each of the other canned food items specifically listed in the new tariff, by

taking the current market prices and the average net weight of the contents of a case.

The schedule of rates in the new tariff as published in the Official Gazette of Cuba is preceded by a statement of the Commission that drew up the schedules, in which the Commission states that the effect of the new tariff will be observed and that such changes will be made as conditions warrant. With regard to the new rates on canned foods, the Commission states that in changing the rates from an ad valorem to a specific basis, protection of national interests was taken as a basis.

The revision of the tariff was effected by a decree of the Cuban president under authority given him to take such action for a period of three years beginning February 9, 1926. In view of the fact that the President can make further changes by decree, the way seems open for protests by importers and consumers with respect to either the burdensome character or the inequity of the new rates.

Bigger String Bean Plantings in Louisiana

Local reports on the growing of vegetables in the flooded districts in the Mississippi Valley indicate that possibly 18,000 acres of string beans, or fully three times last year's plantings, are being grown for fall shipment from Louisiana points. The Market News Service of the Department of Agriculture states that the movement of this crop is now getting under way.